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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/307,545	05/07/1999	BOYCE D. BURTS, JR.	23267/16DI	5004

7590 09/06/2002  
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EXAMINER

RAJGURU, UMAKANT K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2002

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

7-12

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	Examiner	Group Art Unit	

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

**Period for Response**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

**Status**

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 23, 2001 (paper no 8)
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)**

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Action Summary**

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1. The request filed on February 23, 2001 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/307545 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.
2. None of the claims has been amended. Claims under examination are 1-13.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merrill (USP 5377760) in view of Messenger (USP 4579668) or Parsons (USP 2119829) further in view of Clampitt et al (USP 38458322).

This rejection is incorporated here by reference from item 4 of prior office action, (paper no. 4).

*WKR* Applicant's arguments filed May 26, 2000 (paper no 5) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 7, paper no. 5, the applicant argues that all the above references teach addition of reinforcing materials in fluids while instant claims require them to be mixed dry. This difference has already been pointed out by the examiner in the office action. The examiner has also provided a motivation to use a dry mixture (please see page 4, paper no. 4, paragraph 2) in gel of Merrill. Applicant's arguments are therefore not persuasive.

*WKR* 5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to U. K. Rajguru whose telephone number is 703 308-3224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

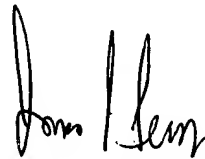
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on 703 308-2462. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9310 for regular communications and 703 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305-0661.



Examiner Rajguru/ng  
August 30, 2002



James J. Seidleck  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700